

REMARKS

The present application was filed on December 21, 2001 with claims 1-20. Claims 1, 15 and 18 are the independent claims.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 1-2, 4, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,149,243 to Wallis (hereinafter "Wallis"); (ii) rejected claims 15, 16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,623,494 to Rostoker et al. (hereinafter "Rostoker") in view of Wallis and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,771,652 to Aydemir et al. (hereinafter "Aydemir"); (iii) rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being patentable over Wallis, Rostoker and Aydemir and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,593,357 to Van Ostrand et al. (hereinafter "Van Ostrand"); (iv) rejected claims 6, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallis in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,629,147 to Grow (hereinafter "Grow"); (v) rejected claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallis in view of Van Ostrand; (vi) rejected claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallis and Grow in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,058,114 to Sethuram et al. (hereinafter "Sethuram"); (vii) rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallis in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,483,839 to Gemar et al. (hereinafter "Gemar"); and (viii) rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallis in view of Rostoker.

In this response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 15 and 18, as well as certain dependent claims. These amendments are not based on the cited references but rather are made in an effort to further clarify the subject matter of the claimed invention. More particularly, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 10 (now canceled) into independent claim 1, and made amendments to independent claims 15 and 18 consistent with the amendments made to independent claims 1.

Regarding the §102(e) rejection based on Wallis, Applicants assert that Wallis fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation in independent claims 1, 15 and 18.

By way of example only, Wallis fails to disclose anything about reassembling packet segments. Thus, Wallis does not disclose first reassembly circuitry, associated with the first processing circuitry, for reassembling segments of received packets into reassembled packets, the segments to be reassembled being related to the first function, or at least second reassembly circuitry, associated with the second processing circuitry, for reassembling at least a portion of the

same segments of packets reassembled by the first reassembly circuitry into reassembled packets, the segments to be reassembled being related to the second function, or such reassembly circuitry's interaction with processing and memory circuitry, as recited in claim 1. Similarly, Wallis fails to disclose the reassembling steps/operations recited in independent claims 15 and 18.

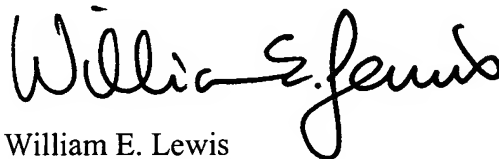
It is noted that in a §103(a) rejection of claims 15 and 18, Aydemir is cited (in combination with Wallis and Rostoker), however, other than disclosing reassembler 30, there is nothing in Aydemir (or in Wallis or Rostoker) that suggests that reassembler 30 can be used to perform the steps/operations that are expressly recited in independent claims 1, 15 and 18.

For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that independent claims 1, 15 and 18 are patentable over the cited references.

Regarding the dependent claims, Applicants assert that such claims are patentable over the cited references, alone or in combination, not only for the reasons given above, but also because one or more of such claims recite patentable subject matter in their own right. Neither Rostoker, Aydemir, Van Ostrand, Grow, Sethuram, nor Gemar remedy the above-mentioned deficiencies.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent part.

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